

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 FRB-01 INR-07
NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 SP-02 CIEP-02
LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 INT-05 PA-02 PRS-01 /076 W
----- 058080

R 091201Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8215
INFO USDOC WASHDC
AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

UNCLAS ATHENS 13031

EO 11652 NA

TAGS EMIN, BEXP GR

SUBJ: COMMERCIALY EXPLOITABLE PHOSPHATE DISCOVERED IN
EPIRUS, NORTHERN GREECE
BUREAU OF MINES FOR SONDERMAYER AND JOSEPHSON

1. INDUSTRY MINISTER KONOPHAGOS ANNOUNCED DECEMBER 8 THAT THE INSTITUTE OF GEOLOGICAL AND MINERAL RESEARCH (IGME) HAS LOCATED COMMERCIALY EXPLOITABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK DEPOSITS AT EPIRUS, NORTHERN GREECE, NEAR VILLAGE OF DELVINAKI, ABOUT 60 KILOMETERS NORTH-NORTHWEST OF IOANNINA. ACCORDING TO PRELIMINARY IGME RESEARCH, PROVEN DEPOSITS TOTAL 10 MILLION TONS, LOCATED NEAR THE SURFACE WITH LENGTH OF TEN KILOMETERS AND THICKNESS OF 2 1/2 TO 3 METERS. PHOSPHORUS PENTOXIDE (P2O5) CONTENT IS 15 PERCENT, BUT CAN BE INCREASED TO AN ESTIMATE 35 PERCENT BY TREATMENT. IGME IS CONTINUING RESEARCH TO VERIFY EXACT OF DEPOSITS.

ACCORDING TO KONOPHAGOS STATEMENT, 1975 GREEK IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK FROM MOROCCO TOTALLED 450,000 TONS AT COST OF \$30 MILLION.

2. ABOVE IS FIRST INDICATION OF COMMERCIALY EXPLOITABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN GREECE AND HAS MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE FOR GROWING GREEK FERTILIZER INDUSTRY. 1975 GREEK PRODUCTION OF CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS TOTALLED 283,000 METRIC TONS NITROGENOUS, 187,000 PHOSPHATE, AND 23,000 POTASSIC.

3. THE EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP WITH THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY
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AND REPORT BY SEPTTEL ON POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR US FIRMS

IN DEVELOPMENT OF THESE DEPOSITS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, MINERALS, PHOSPHATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ATHENS13031
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760455-0737
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761256/aaaabwbt.tel
Line Count: 63
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUN 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COMMERCIALY EXPLOITABLE PHOSPHATE DISCOVERED IN EPIRUS, NORTHERN GREECE BUREAU OF MINES FOR SONDERMAYER AND JOSEPHSON
TAGS: EMIN, BEXP, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006